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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, through Whom we see who we are and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that, whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work and teach us to use our talents and ability in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. NORTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the Gentry Arkansas Fire Department's 100th birthday.

Gentry, Arkansas, is home to over 3,000 of my constituents; and for the past 100 years, the Gentry Fire Department has been steadfastly committed to their safety and well-being, as well as the safety of thousands more who reside in the surrounding areas of Benton County.

From its humble beginnings in 1914 to the purchase of its first firetruck in the 1940s, the Gentry Fire Department and firefighters have worked tirelessly for its citizens, placing themselves in great danger to protect the lives and property of others.

We rest easy knowing the department will continue to do so for the next century, and I join the residents of Gentry to express my profound gratitude.

Thank you to the Gentry firefighters, past and present, for 100 years of selfless service to the Pioneer community. I wish you a very happy 100th birthday.

FULL EMPLOYMENT

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, the bottom line is we need bold visions to achieve full employment.

We know only too well that we have had unprecedented periods of high unemployment. We know that we have

about 50 million people, 13 million who are children, living below poverty in the greatest country in the world. We know we must expand economic opportunity to have a strong middle class, who are the backbone of this great country. We know that getting every American working will add to not only our tax base, but also reduce the deficit and debt and eliminate poverty.

So the question is, Madam Speaker, why aren't we doing it? Where are the visionaries? Where is the President's American Jobs Act of 2013 or the 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act? Where are they?

Madam Speaker, let's bring them to the floor.

CUBAN JOURNALIST JULIET MICHELENA DIAZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the case of Juliet Michelena Diaz, an independent Afro-Cuban journalist who last month was unjustly detained by Castro's thugs simply for photographing the brutality of the state security forces of Fidel Castro in Havana.

The detention of this young journalist is not just an example of the regime's efforts to silence those who are critical of its actions, but it also shows how ruthless the Castro brothers continue to be in their policy of repressing independent voices and violating human rights.

There is no independent press in Cuba and many journalists are afraid to speak out against the dictatorship for fear of incarceration. That is why it is so important to support the free flow of information on the island so that the Cuban people can exchange ideas to promote democratic principles and the rule of law.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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